IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An amorphous silica particle having a maximum value of $\Delta Vp/\Delta Rp$ [[is]] of 20 mm^3/nm·g^{-1} or more in a pore distribution curve obtained by a benzene adsorption isotherm, wherein Vp is a pore volume [mm^3/g] and Rp is a pore radius [nm]; [[and]] a pore peak radius [[is]] of from 20 nm to 100 nm when the $\Delta Vp/\Delta Rp$ value is maximum, and an oil absorption of more than 300 ml/100g.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The amorphous silica particle according to Claim 1, wherein the maximum value of $\Delta Vp/\Delta Rp$ is 30 mm^3/nm·g^{-1} or more in the pore distribution curve obtained by the benzene adsorption isotherm, wherein Vp is the pore volume [mm^3/g] and Rp is the pore radius [nm]; and the pore peak radius is from 30 nm to 90 nm when the $\Delta Vp/\Delta Rp$ value is maximum.

Claims 3-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particle according to Claim [[5]] 1, wherein the oil absorption is more than 320 ml/100g.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The amorphous silica particle according to Claim 1, having an OI1 that is 9.5 min/100g or less.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The amorphous silica particle according to Claim 1, having an OI2 that is 1.2 or less.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a̲ chemical adsorbing ~~agents~~

a̲g̲e̲n̲t̲, the method comprising:

blending the silica particles according to Claim 1 with a resin.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An adsorbent for pharmaceuticals and/or

agrochemicals, comprising the amorphous silica particles according to Claim 1.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A matting agent, comprising the amorphous silica

particles according to Claim 1.